

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To:	All Providers Regional Administrators CSO Administrators	Memorandum No. 03-06 MAA Issued: April 1, 2003
From:	Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary Medical Assistance Administration (MAA)	For further information, call: 1-800-562-6188
Subject:	Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) Program	

The purpose of this memorandum is to help providers understand the Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) program, who is eligible, and what services are covered.

What is the Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) program?

[Refer to WAC 388-438-0110]

The AEM program is a fee-for-service, federally matched program for eligible aliens with an emergency medical condition.

Definition of “Emergency Medical Condition”

According to WAC 388-500-0005, an emergency medical condition is a medical condition (including emergency labor and delivery) manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

- (A) placing the patient’s health in serious jeopardy;
- (B) serious impairment of bodily functions, or
- (C) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Who is eligible for the AEM program?

To be eligible for the AEM program, a person must:

- Have an emergency medical condition; **AND**
- Meet the eligibility requirements for the Categorically Needy Program (CNP) or Medically Needy Program (MNP) but be ineligible for those services because of citizenship or alien status (see WAC 388-424-0005 and 388-424-0010).

Persons eligible for AEM are eligible to receive medical benefits related to the emergency medical condition only.

DSHS Medical Identification (ID) Card

Clients currently enrolled in the AEM program will have one of the following medical identifiers on their DSHS Medical ID Cards:

- **CNP – Emergency Medical Only; or**
- **LCP-MNP Emergency Medical Only.**

What is covered under the AEM program?

AEM covers Categorically Needy (CN) or Medically Needy (MN) scope of care services related to the emergency medical condition including, but not limited to, inpatient and outpatient care, prescriptions, durable medical equipment, and physical therapy. Unlike the Medically Indigent (MI) program, AEM covered services are not limited to hospital-based services.

Note:

The following services are not covered for clients whose DSHS Medical ID Card lists one of the medical identifiers listed above:

- Transplants and related medications and services;
[title 8 U.S.C. Chapter 14, Sec. 1611(b)]
- Prenatal services*; and
- School medical services.

* Prenatal services are available under other Medical Assistance programs. If the client is in need of prenatal services, refer her to her local Community Services Office (CSO).

How long is a client eligible for AEM services?

A person who is eligible for the AEM program is eligible for a 3-month period. Near the end of the eligibility period, MAA sends a letter to the client informing the client that his or her eligibility is ending. Multiple, subsequent 3-month eligibility periods can be granted as long as the client continues to meet the AEM eligibility criteria.